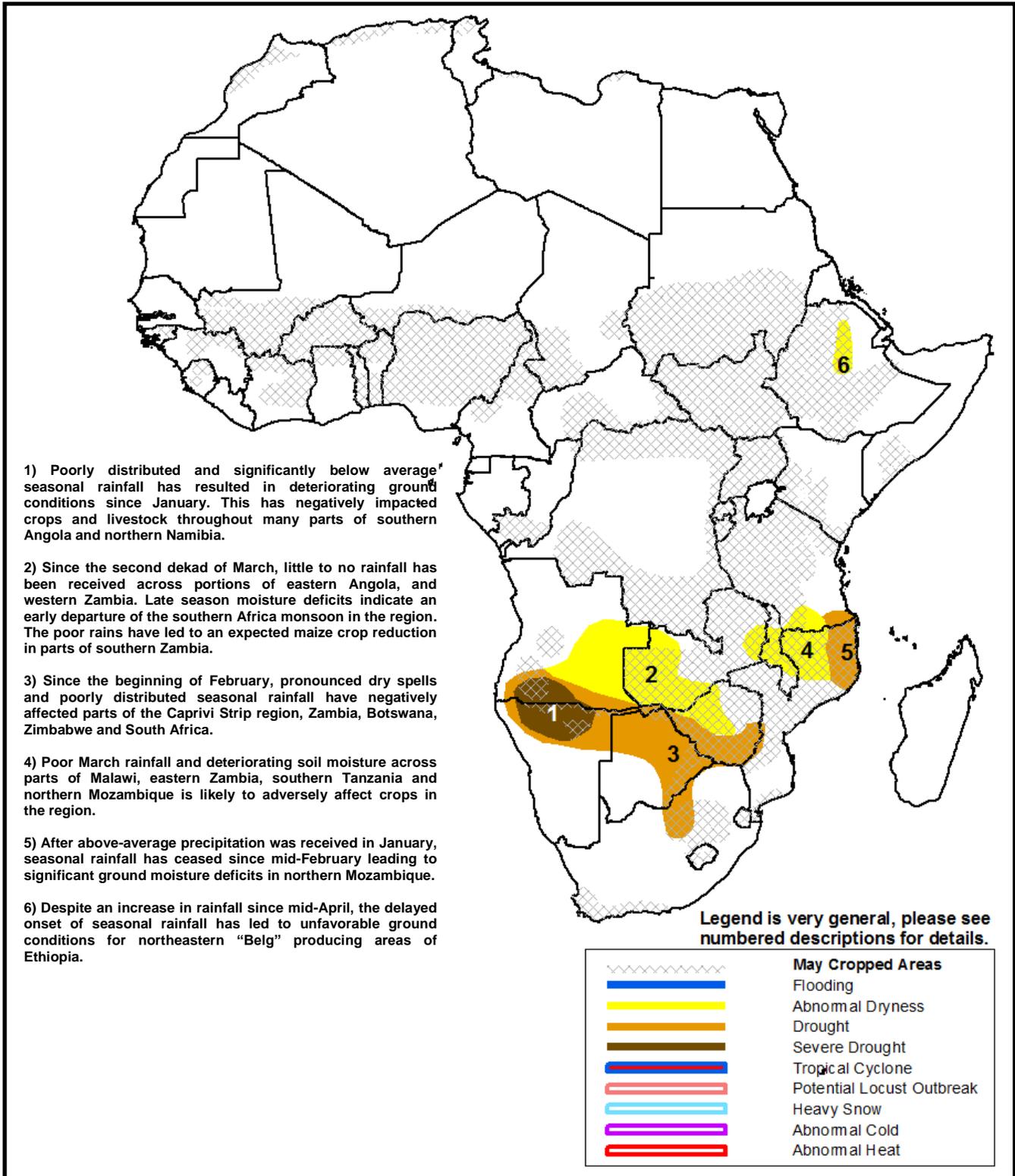


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 23 – May 29, 2013

- Heavy rains were observed in western Ethiopia, western South Sudan and Nigeria during the past week.



Heavy seasonal rains continue in western Ethiopia.

During the past seven days, heavy rains (>50mm) were observed in western Ethiopia, western South Sudan and localized areas in eastern Sudan, and Uganda. The abundant rains in western Ethiopia and western South Sudan increased thirty-day rainfall surpluses to greater than 50mm (**Figure 1**). These surpluses have rapidly developed over the past two weeks as heavy, above-average rains have been recorded, after several weeks of dry conditions. In contrast, little to no rain was observed across central/southern Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. The lack of rain has led to thirty-day rainfall deficits and has provided relief to saturated ground conditions around Lake Victoria in Kenya and in Ethiopia and Somalia. The third to fourth consecutive week of below-average rain in southern Ethiopia and Somalia has allowed water levels along the Shabelle and Juba Rivers to decrease and has minimized flooding concerns after a significantly wet month of April.

Recent heavy rains during the month of May across western South Sudan and the western Oromia, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz and Amhara regions of Ethiopia will likely help improve poor ground conditions that had developed during much of April. The poor ground conditions are evident in terms of negative NDVI anomalies during the beginning of May. Negative NDVI anomalies also extend across northern “Belg” producing regions in northern Ethiopia as a poor start to seasonal rains in March and April has negatively impacted cropping. In contrast, heavy rains during April and the beginning of May have created above-average ground conditions across Somalia, southern Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, with the largest positive NDVI anomaly located in northern Kenya, and northeastern Uganda. The abundant rains have also led to significant flooding in these regions (**Figure 2**).

For the next week, heavy rains (>50mm) are expected to continue in western Ethiopia, increasing seasonal rainfall surpluses. Elsewhere, moderate rain (10-50mm) is forecast for western South Sudan and localized areas in southwestern Kenya. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) are forecast for much of Uganda, Kenya, Somalia and southern Ethiopia.

Heavy rains recorded along the Gulf of Guinea.

Heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded along the Gulf of Guinea in Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Benin and Nigeria during the past week. Elsewhere moderate to locally heavy rain (10-40mm, locally >40mm) was observed, with moderate rains extending farther north than average into central Mali. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) were observed in northeastern Nigeria and Burkina Faso (**Figure 3**). The abundant rains in Nigeria, during the last week, have helped to reduce early season rainfall deficits. However, moderate seasonal deficits remain across central Nigeria. Ground conditions remain average to above-average across much of West Africa, though some areas in northeastern Nigeria and Guinea are below-average. For the next week, heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast in northern Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Guinea and Sierra Leone, while below-average rains are expected along the Gulf of Guinea in Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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